# STAINLAND-WITH-OLD-LINDLEY

## URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1898.

ARTHUR E. WOODCOCK,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

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# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

## To the Chairman and Councillors of Stainland-with-Old-Lindley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Again I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report of the Vital Statistics and Sanitary condition of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1898, this being my 8th Annual Report.

### POPULATION.

The population of your district as enumerated at the Census in April 1891 was 5002. On the assumption that the rate of increase which prevailed between the two last Censuses is still maintained the population of the district in the middle of 1898 is estimated at 5050.

AREA.—2273 acres.

### INHABITED HOUSES.

1134. There being no increase since my last report.

### BIRTHS.

The Births have numbered 94, as compared with 102 last year, being a decrease of 8. The increase of Births over Deaths being 21 as compared with 29 last year, there being therefore 8 births fewer this year than last. The births have

numbered 94 two of which were illegitimate, viz. 57 males and 37 females, being a decrease of 8 and giving a birth-rate of 18·8 as compared with 20·4 in the previous year.

## DEATHS.

The number of registered Deaths during the past year has been 73, or exactly the same number as the previous year viz. 1897, giving a death-rate of 14·6 per 1000, whereas in the year 1897 the death-rate was an abnormally low one, only being 11·2, which I think we may call a record death-rate in this district. Last year the death-rate was considerably increased by the high Zymotic death-rate, there being 5 deaths from Zymotic diseases, whereas this year there has only been one death therefrom. One case of death by scalding in a child at Sowood, the deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough have tended to increase our death rate, as it will be remembered that these two complaints were very rife early in the year, especially Measles, the deaths from Measles and Whooping Cough have been respectively 7 and 1.

The *Respiratory Death-rate* has been 2·2 as compared with 5·2 per 1000 last year.

The *Zymotic Death-rate* has been ·2, as compared with 1·0 per 1000 last year.

The deaths from Pulmonary Phthisis numbered 2, or at the rate of ·4 per 1000.

*Infectious Diseases.* Of these, 16 cases have been notified, including Scarlet Fever 7, Typhoid 4, Croup 2, Diphtheria 1, Erysipelas 2. This compares very favourably with the preceding year, when 26 cases of Infectious diseases were notified, taking the diseases seriatim, we find

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever, - | 1898, 7 cases. | 1897, 19 cases. |
| Typhoid Fever, - | 1898, 4 cases. | 1897, 2 cases. |
| Croup - - - | 1898, 2 cases. | 1897, 2 cases. |
| Diphtheria - - | 1898, 1 case. | 1897, nil. |
| Erysipelas - - | 1898, 2 cases. | 1897, 3 cases. |

## WHOOPING COUGH.

There appear to have been odd cases found throughout the year, at one time an epidemic was feared, and grave doubts entertained as to the closing of Schools. At present there are still cases to be found scattered about the district, but on the whole nothing approaching an epidemic.

## ERYSIPELAS.

2 cases have been notified, as against 3 in the previous year, both cases recovered completely.

## DIARRHŒA.

Four deaths have been registered from this disease, one in a person advanced in years, and three in infants. The past summer appears to have been marked by the usual amount of Diarrhœa as in previous years.

## PUERPERAL FEVER.

No cases this year. This makes the fifth year since any case was recorded.

## SMALL POX.

No case has been reported, this being the third year of immunity from the disease.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

4 cases have been notified, as against 2 last year. You will remember the case at Sowood in the house of P. C. Hurst. The patient, a young man, was working on the railway near Penistone, and was seized with violent diarrhœa, he was too ill to follow his work, and came home, I visited him a few days after and found him to be suffering from Enteric Fever, which promised to be of a virulent type, he was removed to Stoney Royd, Halifax, where he died, this was evidently an imported case, as the young man

was ill, and presented all the symptoms of Fever when he reached home. One of the remaining three cases broke out in Beech Street, and I think proceeded from inhaling sewer gas, as the woman had frequently complained of the drain, and felt unwell in consequence, the drain was examined and found defective and was remedied. A case was reported from Jagger Green, and the only source we could trace was that of eating oysters, the patient, a young woman, had been away for a holiday and had eaten freely of oysters after which she commenced to be ill, and Typhoid Fever supervened, she completely recovered. The fourth case occured at Sowood and was investigated but we were unable to find any satisfactory cause. The house wherein the young woman was living, was I think, not using Coldacre Water, and fetched their supply from a well in the vicinity. I recommend that all drinking water should be boiled before using, this patient eventually recovered.

## CROUP.

2 cases have been notified, as against 2 cases in the year previous. One child died, the other recovered.

## MEASLES.

This disease was found in the early part of the year, and was responsible for 7 deaths. About spring-time the disease abated, and only an odd case or two have occurred since.

## CHICKEN POX.

Cases of this complaint have been found in scattered form throughout the year. You will remember that we were troubled with an Epidemic last year especially affecting the numbers in the Infant Schools, this year the cases have been much fewer.

## INFLUENZA.

Four deaths have been certified from this complaint, in fact there has been more of it found during the present year than for 2 years previously.

## SCARLET FEVER.

I am pleased to report a decrease in this department. In the year 1897 there were 19 cases notified as against 7 cases this year, these all occurred during the first half of the year, and when the winter approached we were quite free. This is an exception, as the month of November is generally fraught with out-breaks of Scarlet Fever, all our cases terminated favourably. It will be seen that there were more cases of Scarlet Fever reported last year, than the whole of the Infectious diseases reported this year.

## MUMPS.

Several cases have been under treatment but at present there are not many to be found.

## MORTALITY AT GROUPS OF AGES.

The 1898 deaths in your district included the following :—

18 under 1 year of age.

12 between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

2 ,, ,, 5 ,, 15 ,,

2 ,, ,, 15 ,, 25 ,,

17 ,, ,, 25 ,, 65 ,,

22 in persons upwards of 65 years of age.

This shows that 25 per cent of the deaths occurred in Infants under 12 month old.

The *Infantile Mortality* reached 177 per 1000, being very high.

## WATER SUPPLY.

This still holds its former reputation, I rarely hear any complaint about the water, either as to quantity or quality.

The Drainage Scheme is still in abeyance, but there has been held a Government Enquiry *re* dealing with the question of trade effluent, the decision of the Local Government Board has not yet been made known.

In conclusion, I consider that the health and sanitation of your district remain satisfactory.

I would again thank your Surveyor, Mr. J. H. Walker, for the kindly assistance he gives me from time to time in all matters, sanitary and hygienic.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. WOODCOCK,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c.